

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 270945Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8255

USMISSION USUN

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CY, UN

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE LOCAL ELECTIONS; INTERCOMMUNAL ASPECTS

SUMMARY: WE ANTICIPATE THAT FORTHCOMING LOCAL ELECTIONS MAY LEAD TO FURTHER DE FACTO DIVISION BETWEEN GREEK AND TURK CYPRIOTS IF A MEANS IS NOT FOUND TO PERMIT THE GOCYPRUS TO CONTINUE WORK WITH LOCAL TURKISH OFFICIALS. WE THINK UNSYG REP AND UNFICYP CAN PLAY A ROLE IN AVERTING THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. TURKS HAVE MADE FORMAL DECISION TO HOLD LOCAL ELECTIONS IN TURKISH VILLAGES CONCURRENTLY WITH GREEK CYPRIOT ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE. IF THE ELECTIONS PROCEED (AND DESPITE A GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM, IT PRESENTLY APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ANYBODY ON GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WILL BE WILLING TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR STOPPING THEM) THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SOME NEW MUCHTARS (VILLAGE HEADMEN) ELECTED ON TURKISH SIDE.

2. WE FIND GOCYPRUS OFFICERS PRIVATELY GUESSING THAT GOCYPRUS WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE THE RESULTS OF AN ELECTION RUN BY THE TURKISH ADMINISTRATION, THIS
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WOULD MEAN THAT VARIOUS LEGAL DOCUMENTS ISSUED OR

ATTESTED BY THE MUCHTARS WOULD NOT HAVE VALIDITY IN CYPRIOT COURTS. IT WOULD FURTHER CUT OFF THE TURKISH VILLAGERS FROM THE GOVT OF CYPRUS, AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD THE TURKISH ADMINISTRATION TO STEP INTO THE BREACH AND TAKE OVER SOME MORE OF THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL STILL HELD BY THE GOVT OF CYPRUS. GOCYPRUS OFFICIALS NOT HAPPY AT THIS PROSPECT BUT PROFESS THEMSELVES UNWILLING TO AVOID IT.

3. ONE PROBLEM WHICH UNFICYP (OR ANYBODY ELSE) WILL FACE IN TRYING TO HEAD OFF THIS ISSUE IS THAT ANY EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INTEREST WILL BE USED TO PASS THE BUCK FOR BELATED EFFORTS TO CANCEL THE PROPOSED ELECTIONS. THIS CAME OUT CLEARLY IN AN INTERVIEW WITH MIN INT DIR GEN ANASTASSIOU, WHO SAID THAT THE PROBLEM IS SERIOUS AND URGED ("DON'T QUOTE ME") US TO APPROACH CLERIDES WITH PLEA THAT HOUSE MOVE TO DEFER ELECTIONS. HE INSISTED THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO AVOID THE ANTICIPATED PROBLEM, SINCE THE GOCYPRUS CANNOT LEGALLY DEFER ELECTIONS AND COULD NOT ACCEPT VALIDITY OF ELECTIONS ORGANIZED BY THE TURKS WITHOUT GOCYPRUS SUPERVISION.

4. DENKTASH TELLS ME THAT HE HAS MENTIONED THIS PROBLEM ON TWO OCCASIONS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. ON FEB 19, GREEK CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERT DEKLERIS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM AND ASKED DENKTASH IF HE WOULD PUT IT IN WRITING. DENKTASH HAS PROMISED TO DO SO, AND HAS ALSO PROMISED A COPY TO UNSYG REP OSORIO.

5. IF THIS PROBLEM PROGRESSES TO ITS ANTICIPATED RESULT, THE COMMUNITIES WILL BE FURTHER ESTRANGED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, AND FRICTIONS WILL BE PUBLICIZED AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL, WITH THE TURKS ACCUSING GOVT OF CYPRUS OF ABDICATING RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD THE TURKISH POPULATION AND THE GOVT OF CYPRUS COUNTER-CHARGING THE TURKS WITH TRYING TO CREATE A SEPARATE STATE.

6. WE THINK THIS REPRESENTS A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF ISSUE INTO WHICH THE UNSYG REP AND UNFICYP HAVE BOTH THE RIGHT AND OBLIGATION TO INJECT THEMSELVES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PURSUANCE OF THEIR MANDATE. A COMPROMISE WORKED OUT IN ADVANCE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNFICYP MIGHT BE EASIER THAN AFTER THERE HAS BEEN A DIRECT CONFRONTATION.

7. I ASKED UNSYG REP OSORIO-TAFALL WHETHER HE SAW POTENTIAL CONFRONTATION AS A SERIOUS PROBLEM. HE FIRST TENDED TO DOWNPLY, BUT THEN MENTIONED THAT "OLD TIME BUREAUCRATS" (HE SPECIFICALLY CITED ANASTASSIOU PLUS

TWO DISTRICT OFFICERS) SEEMED DETERMINED TO REJECT CREDENTIALS OF ELECTED MUCHTARS. AFTER SOME REFLECTION, HE INDICATED HE WOULD RAISE THE PROBLEM WITH GREEK SIDE TO ATTEMPT TO AVOID FUTURE DILEMMA.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: IF USUN SEES OSORIO REPLACEMENT BEFORE HE LEAVES NEW YORK, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO MENTION THIS IMPENDING PROBLEM. DURING "HONEYMOON" PERIOD FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL, WE ASSURE THAT GOCYPRUS WILL BE ANXIOUS TO SHOW ITSELF REASONABLE, AND THAT AN INFORMAL SUGGESTION BY HIM THAT GOCYPRUS NOT PRECIPITATE ISSUE MIGHT LEAD IT TO PASS WORD TO BUREAUCRACY THAT THEY SHOULD NOT RAISE ISSUE OF VALIDITY OF TURKISH MUCHTARS' CREDENTIALS AFTER ELECTIONS.
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